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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

INVESTMENT NEEDS IN WATER- AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN FULFILLING SDG6

20.03.2023 10:00 (EST) Budapest

Organized by: Hungarian Water Association

Background

International scientific literature and research results demonstrate a deep and wide gap in the water value. Facilities related to water and sewerage networks providing urban water utility services are more expensive than any other public service infrastructure, and yet, the tariffs of water and sewerage services are the lowest among household expenditures.

Key Issues discussed

- While in developing countries it is the lack of infrastructure,
- in the developed world the replacement of assets, often aged 100 years and over, present increasingly pressing, still unresolved problems put off for decades.
- The cost requirements of water supply and the underlying infrastructure show marked differences along a different social stratification, as well. The smaller the unit of supply, the size of the settlement, the higher the per capita infrastructure and service costs are, at the same time this is where disposable incomes are the lowest.
- Social groups living in small and large settlements are aware of the substantial differences in communal water and sewerage service costs depending on the size of the settlement.
- They also feel the need for the renewal of the infrastructure, and although they require it on the one hand, and
- are willing to compensate, demonstrate solidarity and social engagement on the other hand,
- they are not, however, aware of its weight and extent.

Key recommendations for action

Based on what we heard it is now more evident than ever before that

- there are two very different road to follow when looking for solution for the same problem (sustainable provision of healthy drinking water for the people and sanitation that is harmless for the environment)

-The choice between those two shall depend on the size of the settlement (population density) and the financial capabilities of the people living there (that overwhelmingly coincides with the current existence of network).

-service price just need to be payed including depreciation cost of the network (survey)

-when we set our goals for drinking water provision we have to be realistic and choose realistic solutions (solutions for what someone is willing and ready to pay proper price)

-There is no place not to be honest about price and cost